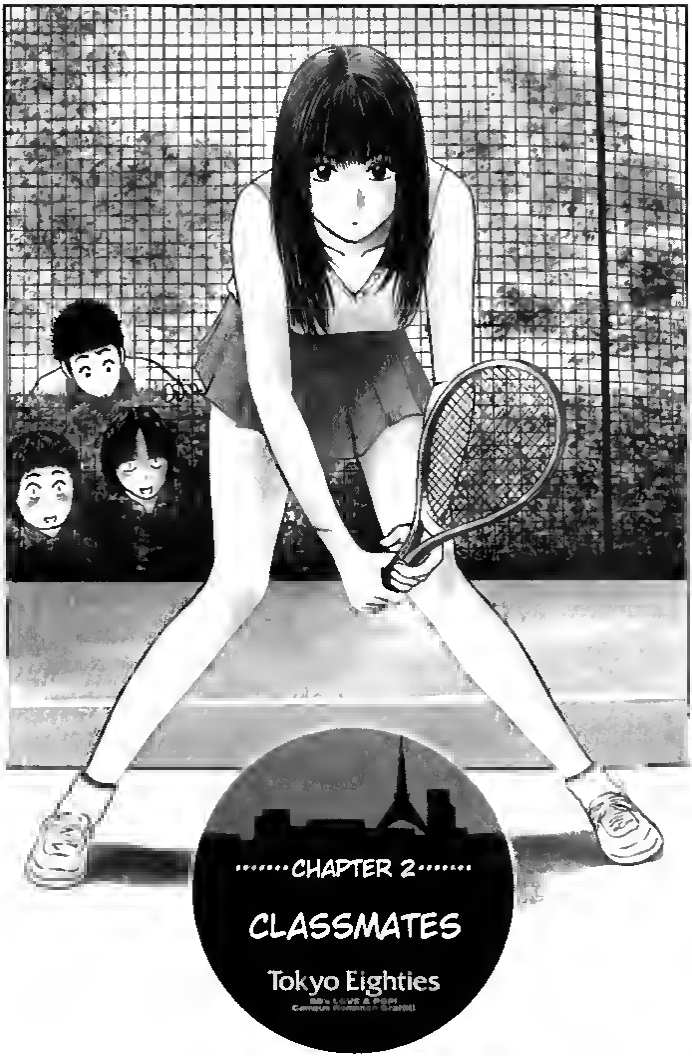
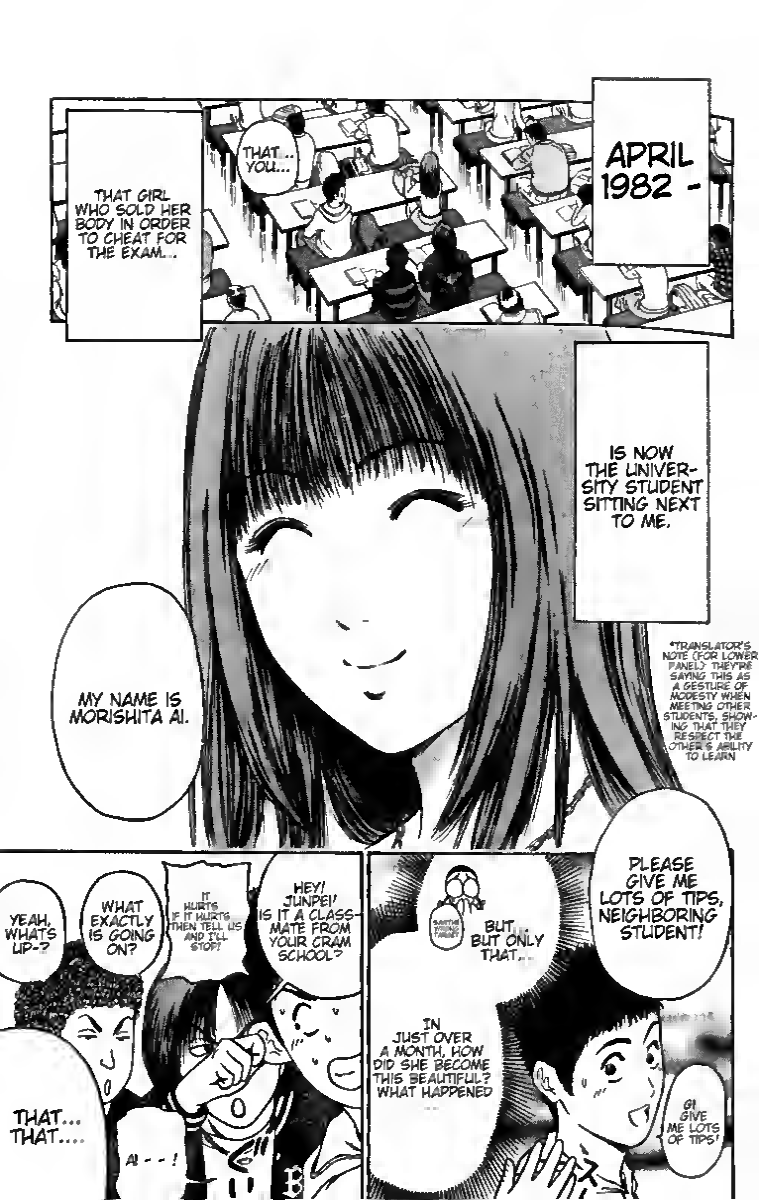
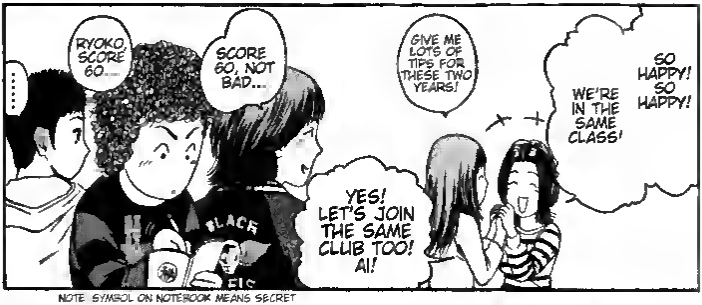

CHAPTER 2
CLASSMATES
Tokyo Eighties


APRIL 1982 -
THAT... YOU...
THAT GIRL WHO SOLD HER BODY IN ORDER TO CHEAT FOR THE EXAM...
IS NOW THE UNIVERSITY STUDENT SITTING NEXT TO ME.
MY NAME IS MORISHITA AI.
*TRANSLATOR'S NOTE (FOR LOWER PANEL): THEY'RE SAYING THIS AS A GESTURE OF MODESTY WHEN MEETING OTHER STUDENTS, SHOWING THAT THEY RESPECT THE OTHER'S ABILITY TO LEARN
PLEASE GIVE ME LOTS OF TIPS, NEIGHBORING STUDENT!
SHHHH STOP THAT!
BUT, BUT ONLY THAT...
IN JUST OVER A MONTH, HOW DID SHE BECOME THIS BEAUTIFUL? WHAT HAPPENED...
GI GIVE ME LOTS OF TIPS!
HEY! JUNPEI! IS IT A CLASSMATE FROM YOUR CRAM SCHOOL?
IT HURTS IF IT HURTS THEN TELL US AND I'LL STOP?
WHAT EXACTLY IS GOING ON?
YEAH, WHAT'S UP-?
THAT... THAT....
AI - - !

HEY!
AH? RYOKO.....
WOAH!
SO BIG -

* TRANSLATOR'S NOTE: MORE MODESTY

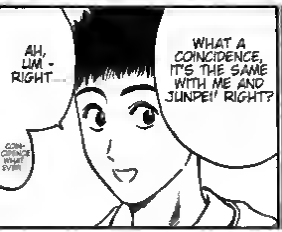

RYOKO, SCORE 60...
SCORE 60, NOT BAD...
GIVE ME LOTS OF TIPS FOR THESE TWO YEARS!
SO HAPPY! SO HAPPY!
WE'RE IN THE SAME CLASS!
YES! LET'S JOIN THE SAME CLUB TOO! AI!
BLACK
ETC

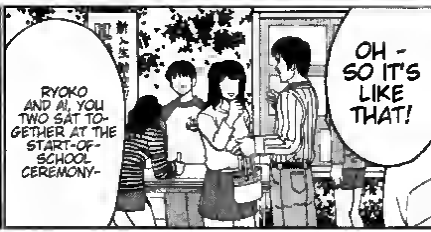
NOTE: SYMBOL ON NOTEBOOK MEANS SECRET

YEAH...
EXTREMELY... AWKWARD
IT'S ONLY JUST STARTED AND IT'S ALREADY SO AWKWARD.
THIS WOMAN... WHAT IS SHE PLANNING...
AH! YES, IT WAS I WHO WANTED THE EXAM SUPERVISOR TO CATCH HER CHEATING...
WRONG, IT SHOULDN'T...
I'D ALWAYS...
LOOK!
WON'T FORGET YOU...
WON'T FORGET YOU...
FOR YOU, I BECAME MORE BEAUTIFUL...

STUPID ME! WHY AM I IMAGINING ROMANCE MANGA SCENES! HOW IS THIS POSSIBLE!
...
AH!
SHE MUST BE PLOTTING SOMETHING IN THE DARK...
THAT TIME WAS THE FIRST TIME FOR BOTH OF US...
NO! THIS WOMAN USED HER VIRGINITY AS PAYMENT FOR SILENCE
WHICH CLUB DO YOU WANT TO JOIN?
RIGHT - ?
AH?
JUNPEI - WE - ARE F-RIENDS RIGHT - ?

BA


AH, UM - RIGHT...
WHAT A COINCIDENCE, IT'S THE SAME WITH ME AND JUNPEI! RIGHT?
COINCIDENCE WHAT EVER.


RYOKO AND AI, YOU TWO SAT TOGETHER AT THE START-OF-SCHOOL CEREMONY-
OH - SO IT'S LIKE THAT!

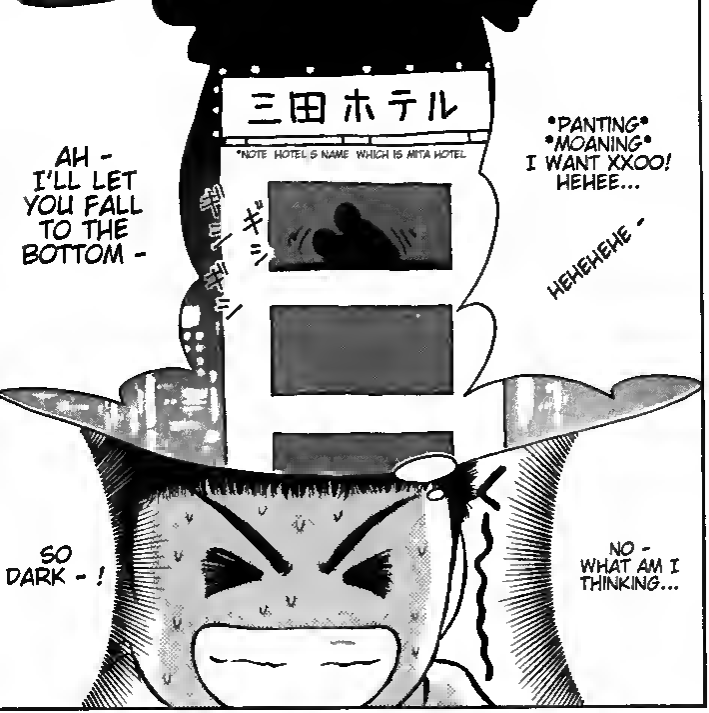
WHAT'S UP WITH YOU? ALL YOU DID WAS SIT TOGETHER DURING THE EXAM...
YOU'RE REACTING SO EXAGGERATINGLY, I'M STARTING TO THINK THERE'S SOMETHING BETWEEN YOU TWO....
AH NO, HAHAHA -
SUDDENLY EMBARRASSED --
BUT THERE REALLY IS SOMETHING GOING ON, SAI

*TRANSLATOR'S NOTE: EMBARRASSED IS AN ITHEN SUN OF AGREEST. HE'S NOT REALLY EMBARRASSED, HE'S USING THE WORD HERE TO IMPLY THAT HE DIDN'T WANT TO INVOLVE YUUJI INTO THINKING THERE WAS SOMETHING GOING ON.

WAH -
SO MANY FLYERS ...
HALLO, HALLO! YOU MUST BE NEW STUDENTS!
WHY NOT LISTEN TO WHAT I HAVE TO SAY...
OUR CLUB BASICALLY LEANS TOWARDS FOCUSING ON EXPERIENCED TENNIS, SURFING, SKIING, ETC.
HM? DON'T YOU WANT TO LISTEN?
AH? I DON'T KNOW...
WE STILL WANT TO BROWSE A BIT, BUT LET'S SIGN UP FOR IT ALRIGHT?
OK! THEN WRITE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS ON THIS BOOKLET
OKAY
COME COME! THIS IS REALLY GREAT! WRITE YOUR NAME ON HERE! HURRY UP YOU TWO!
YOU'RE REALLY ENTHUSIASTIC!
BUT AFTER YOU SIGN YOU'LL BECOME A CADRE
OH REALLY?
HAHAHA -
IS THIS ALRIGHT? MAEDA SIGNS UP FOR EVERY SINGLE CLUB SO ARBITRARILY...
NO PROBLEM! JUST NEED TO SEE IF EACH CLUB HAS FEMALE STUDENTS ATTENDING THE WELCOME PARTY... SO I'M SIGNING UP FOR EVERY CLUB.
STILL COME FOR?

新宿良神ホワイトメゾン
702...
MUST BE A REALLY BIG APARTMENT...
WA - YOU LIVE IN THE EXPENSIVE APARTMENTS AT SHINJUKU!
WHY IS THIS GUY SO FAMILIAR...
HEHEHE -
THE "WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS SOCIAL MEETING"! THERE WILL BE COUNTLESS FEMALE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS...
*NOTE: TEXT IN BACKGROUND IS AN ADDRESS
NO! I'VE ONLY GOT A LITTLE BIT...
YOU WON'T HAVE A LOT OF MONEY AT HOME DO YOU?
SOMETHING IS SUSPICIOUS!
*NOTE: ONE OF THOSE FEMALE SUBCULTURE KINDS LIKE "YOU AREN'T UP TO ANYTHING STUPID SO I KNOW THAT" EXPECTS A MORE "INNOCENT" ANSWER
EVEN HER PURSE IS NAME-BRAND...
SHE CLEARLY LOOKED LIKE A PEASANT GIRL AT THE EXAM... SO HARD TO IMAGINE...
...BUT WHAT EXACTLY HAPPENED AFTER THAT EVENT?
.....
IF SOMETHING REALLY HAPPENED... THEN WOULDN'T IT BE MY FAULT?
BECAUSE OF WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN US SHE BECAME LIKE THIS
*NOTE: NOT IMPLYING THAT SHE IS PREGNANT JUST THAT SHE MIGHT BE LIKE THIS BECAUSE SHE LIKED WHAT THEY DID A LITTLE TOO MUCH

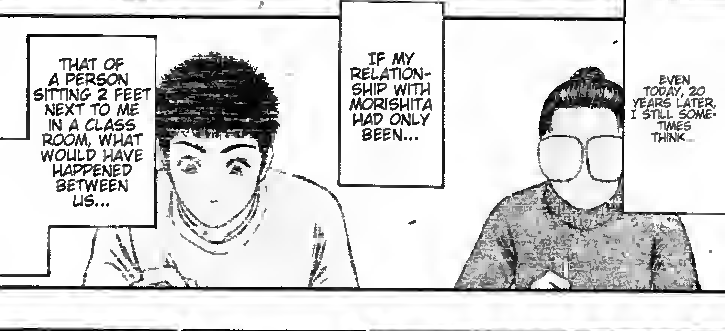
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?
SO... AI-CHAN, TODAY...
RANDOMLY MENTIONING THAT THIS IS PRINCE SHOTOKU
HEHE! I'LL DO ANYTHING! DADDY!
SO YOU HAVE TO HELP ME BUY A LOUIS VEI-TON PURSE!
AH - DADDY!
I'LL BUY YOU ANYTHING YOU WANT -!
DON'T KNOW WHY SHE WANTS A PURSE...


三田ホテル
*NOTE HOTEL'S NAME WHICH IS MITA HOTEL
ギシ
ギシ
AH - I'LL LET YOU FALL TO THE BOTTOM -
PANTING
MOANING
I WANT XXOO! HEHEE...
HEHEHEHE -
SO DARK - !
NO - WHAT AM I THINKING...

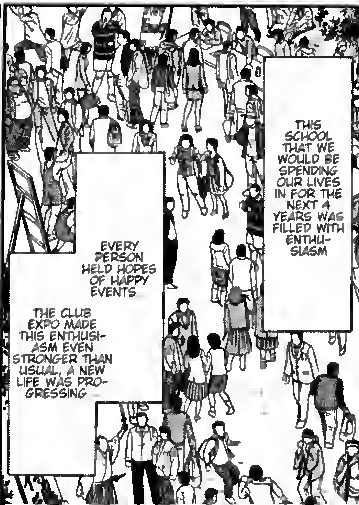
Double Cut
SINCE 1978
?
AH - DISGUST-ING!

.....

THE STUDENT BESIDE ME IN THE SAME FIELD AND SAME LANGUAGES STUDIES CLASS AS ME
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ME AND MORISHITA IF THAT INCIDENT AT THE EXAM DIDN'T HAPPEN, WOULD PROBABLY HAVE BEEN VERY TYPICAL...


EVEN TODAY, 20 YEARS LATER, I STILL SOMETIMES THINK...
IF MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MORISHITA HAD ONLY BEEN...
THAT OF A PERSON SITTING 2 FEET NEXT TO ME IN A CLASS ROOM, WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED BETWEEN US...

COME SIGN YOUR NAME HERE
I REALLY LIKE YOUR FUZZY SEAWEED HAIR
FUZZY SEAWEED LOVERS CLUB
THE FREEDOM THAT WAS SO DIFFICULTLY EARNED, NOW IS BEGINNING
TO BE PRODUCTIVELY WASTED...
SOAKED IN THE POST-EXAM FEELING OF FREEDOM...
DO YOU WANT TO BE THE STAR IN OUR CLUB?
AH!
I REALLY WOULD CAN FILM A MOVIE WITH YOU
ADULT FILM RESEARCH ASSOCIATION


THIS SCHOOL THAT WE WOULD BE SPENDING OUR LIVES IN FOR THE NEXT 4 YEARS WAS FILLED WITH ENTHUSIASM
EVERY PERSON HELD HOPES OF HAPPY EVENTS
THE CLUB EXPO MADE THIS ENTHUSIASM EVEN STRONGER THAN USUAL. A NEW LIFE WAS PROGRESSING

MAEDA YUUJI
MURA-MOTO RIKIYA
MAI-MURA RYOKO
AND MORISHITA AND I...

AT THAT TIME, ONE OF US...HAD ALREADY COMPLETED HALF OF HIS SHORT LIFE OF 40 YEARS...
ONLY NONE OF US FOUR KNEW, AND NEITHER DID HE THINK THAT THINGS WOULD BECOME LIKE THIS...

ME TOO!
I HAVE A JOB INTER-VIEW IN A WHILE.
AH! THIS IS TRAGIC! I BETTER GO!
THEN - WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
IF THERE'S NOTHING ELSE, EVEN THOUGH WE'RE A BIT EARLY, WE COULD GO HANG AROUND THE PUB NEAR THE RACE-TRACK...
AH! EVERYONE LEFT...HOW BORING -
BLACK ANGELS

UM, I CAN PLAY A BIT, BUT WE ONLY HAVE 3 PEOPLE.
JUNPEI, DO YOU PLAY MAHJJONG?
AH? A BUNCH OF SMALL MEN GOING TO DRINK? PLAYING MAHJJONG WOULD BE BETTER
ANY-WAYS WE STILL HAVE TIME LET'S GO DRINK -
OH, WE'RE ONLY MISSING ONE PERSON
WANTED TO USE THE EXCUSE OF HAVING A DRINK TO GET FAMILIAR.
RIGHT, JUNPEI?
AH? I DIDN'T THINK IT THAT WAY
HEY! YOU!
SHIRT WITH HUGE COLLAR
BLONED 3 TIMES
NO BELT
LONG-STYLE BACKPACK
HIGH-SCHOOL UNIFORM PANTS
YOU'RE IN THE BUSINESS DEPARTMENT'S FRENCH CLASS, RIGHT?
MY NAME IS MAEDA DO YOU HAVE SPARE TIME RIGHT NOW? YOU DO -
THEN COME PLAY MAHJJONG WITH US NEW STUDENTS!
HEY - JUNPEI! RIKIYA!
YOU SHOULD KNOW HOW TO PLAY - YOU'RE ALREADY A UNIVERSITY STUDENT ..
AH! SO ITS LIKE THAT! THEN IT'S DECIDED!
HEH HEH HEH -
THIS CAN REPLACE MY PART-TIME JOB SALARY
DISCOVERED A BIGHEAD! HE'S ONLY PLAYED MAHJIAN!

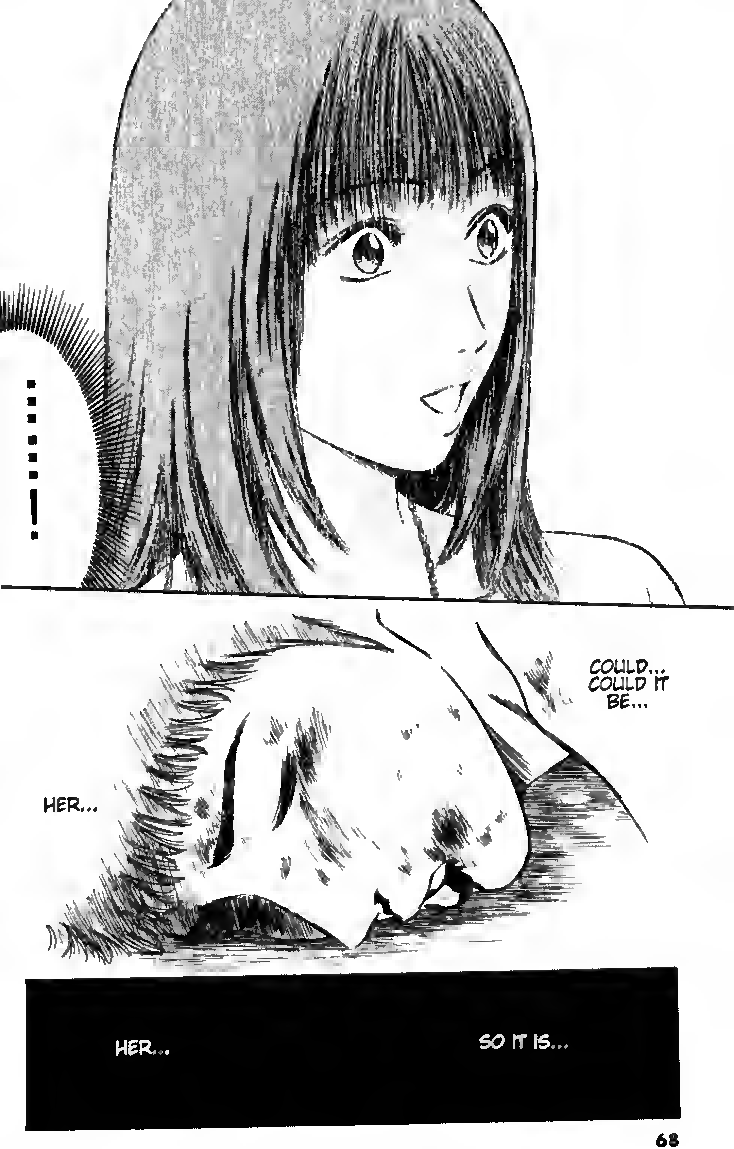
NEVER THOUGHT AN IDIOT LIKE THAT COULD HAVE SUCH BEGINNER'S LUCK...
OH WELL, IT WAS MOSTLY RIKIYA LOSING ...I LOST A THOUSAND YEN TOO....
HOWEVER, MAEDA WON 5000...
IT'S TRUE...
HUH?

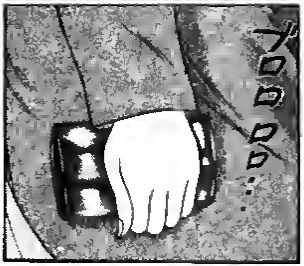
WOW - LOOKS LIKE THESE PEOPLE SHOULDN'T BE DISTURBED...
EH?
HEY HEY, JUNPEI?
OH -
YEAH, I'M JUNPEI...
MAY I ASK - WHAT'S GOING ON...
BEST IF I DON'T...
LOOK DIRECTLY AT THEM

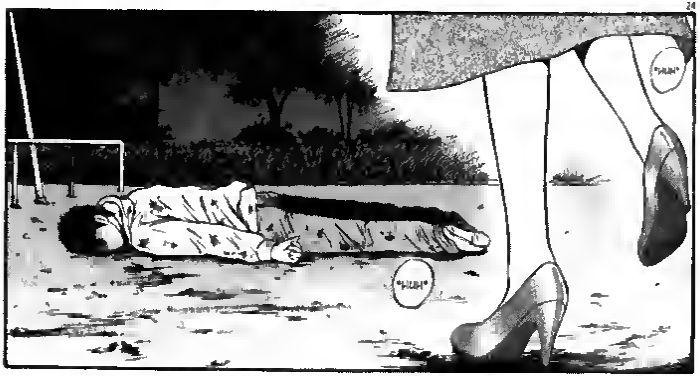
YOU... WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO WHY ARE YOU SUDDENLY HITTING PEOPLE...
WOMP
ARE YOU COMING OVER OR NOT? HUH?
STOP RIGHT NOW! DO YOU HEAR ME!
TOMI
TOMI TOMI
AH -
I-DIOT-!

ガッ
ドゴッ
YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO SCREAM AND CRY SO LOUDLY! DO YOU HEAR ME?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? PRETENDING TO BE IN PAIN! YOU IDIOT!
ドゴッ
ドゴッ
IT DOESNT HURT AT ALL DOES IT! IT'S JUST A LITTLE TASTE!
キッ
STAND UP! YOU BASTARD - STAND UP!
WHY... WHY...IS IT ME...
ドゴッ
ボゴッ
ガッ
PAIN... PAIN... DISGUSTING...

DON'T TALK RANDOMLY ABOUT YOUR SCHOOLMATES, DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
HEY, KID! YOU BETTER LISTEN!
DO YOU UNDERSTAND...?
OR WE'LL MEET AGAIN!
WHAT?
WHAT IS..THE MEANING ....EH...
WHAT...
BYE!
SLAP
!


!!!!!!!
COULD... COULD IT BE...
HER...
HER...
SO IT IS...





*NOTE *HUH* SOUNDS ARE SOUNDS OF BREATHING

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